(v) the DRDAs of Nowrangpur in Assam for mis-utilization of funds under EAS.

(c) The comments of the concerned State Governments are being collect. Appropriate action will be taken on receipt of the comments.

New Textile Policy

283. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new Textile Policy.

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the expected time for its introduction; and

(d) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (d) An Expert Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam in July, 1998 to inter-alia, review and evaluate the impact of the existing textile policy, and identify the changes that are now necessary, particularly in the context of the new imperatives of international competition. The Committee has since submitted its report. The recommendations of the committee are under consideration in the Ministry for finalisation of the new Textile Policy.

Consumption of Raw Silk

†284. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total consumption of raw silk in India at present;

(b) the quantity of the above consumption which is fulfilled by import of raw silk; and

(c) the efforts being made to increase the production of silk in the country and the likely increase in quantum of production in the past three years?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.